

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 50 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and add new Claims 51 to 110 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 50. (Canceled)

51. (New) A print system which provides a print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request that includes designation of the electronic document to be printed, said print system comprising:

an accepting unit, adapted to accept a print job request; and

a computing unit, adapted to compute a use fee for the print service,

wherein, if the print job request is accepted via a server apparatus, said computing unit computes the use fee for the print service on the basis of a first billing rate, and

if the print job request is accepted directly by a printer, said computing unit computes the use fee for the print service on the basis of a second billing rate, wherein the first billing rate differs from the second billing rate.

52. (New) A print system according to claim 51, wherein image data is transferred via a network from the server apparatus to the printer.

53. (New) A print system according to claim 51, wherein the server apparatus transmits registered image data to the printer in response to the print job request from a client.

54. (New) A print system according to claim 51, wherein the server apparatus has a function of managing the print service and the server apparatus includes said computing unit.

55. (New) A print system according to claim 51, wherein said computing unit computes the use fee in accordance with a print result notice from the printer.

56. (New) A print system according to claim 51, wherein the server apparatus is connected to a client apparatus and the printer via a network.

57. (New) A control method for a print system which provides a print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request that includes designation of the electronic document to be printed, said method comprising:

an accepting step of accepting a print job request; and

a computing step of computing a use fee for the print service,

wherein, if the print job request is accepted via a server apparatus in said accepting step, said computing step computes the use fee for the print service on the basis of a first billing rate, and

if the print job request is accepted directly by a printer in said accepting step, said computing step computes the use fee for the print service on the basis of a second billing rate, wherein the first billing rate differs from the second billing rate.

58. (New) A control method according to claim 57, wherein image data is transferred via a network from the server apparatus to the printer.

59. (New) A control method according to claim 57, wherein the server apparatus transmits registered image data to the printer in response to the print job request from a client.

60. (New) A control method according to claim 57, wherein the server apparatus has a function of managing the print service and the server apparatus includes a computing unit for executing said computing step.

61. (New) A control method according to claim 57, wherein said computing step computes the use fee in accordance with a print result notice from the printer.

62. (New) A control method according to claim 57, wherein the server apparatus is connected to a client apparatus and the printer via a network.

63. (New) A server apparatus which provides a print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request that includes designation of the electronic document to be printed, said apparatus comprising:

an accepting unit, adapted to accept a print job request; and

a computing unit, adapted to compute a use fee for the print service,

wherein, if the print job request is accepted via a server apparatus, said computing unit computes the use fee for the print service on the basis of a first billing rate, and

if the print job request is accepted directly by a printer, said computing unit computes the use fee for the print service on the basis of a second billing rate, wherein the first billing rate differs from the second billing rate.

64. (New) A server apparatus according to claim 63, wherein image data is transferred via a network from said server apparatus to the printer.

65. (New) A server apparatus according to claim 63, wherein said server apparatus transmits registered image data to the printer in response to the print job request from a client.

66. (New) A server apparatus according to claim 63, whereon said server apparatus has a function of managing the print service.

67. (New) A server apparatus according to claim 63, wherein said computing unit computes the use fee in accordance with a print result notice from the printer.

68. (New) A server apparatus according to claim 63, wherein said server apparatus is connected to a client apparatus and the printer via a network.

69. (New) A storage medium on which is stored a program to execute a control method for a print system which provides a print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request that includes designation of the electronic document to be printed, said program comprising:

an accepting step of accepting a print job request; and

a computing step of computing a use fee for the print service,

wherein, if the print job request is accepted via a server apparatus in said accepting step, said computing step computes the use fee for the print service on the basis of a first billing rate, and

if the print job request is accepted directly by a printer in said accepting step, said computing step computes the use fee for the print service on the basis of a second billing rate, wherein the first billing rate differs from the second billing rate.

70. (New) A storage medium according to claim 69, wherein image data is transferred via a network from the server apparatus to the printer.

71. (New) A storage medium according to claim 69, wherein the server apparatus transmits registered image data to the printer in response to the print job request from a client.

72. (New) A storage medium according to claim 69, wherein the server apparatus has a function of managing the print service and the server apparatus includes a computing unit for executing said computing step.

73. (New) A storage medium according to claim 69, wherein said computing step computes the use fee in accordance with a print result notice from the printer.

74. (New) A storage medium according to claim 69, wherein the server apparatus is connected to a client apparatus and the printer via a network.

75. (New) A program stored on a computer-readable storage medium, the program causing a computer to execute a control method for a print system which provides a print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request that includes designation of the electronic document to be printed, said program comprising:

an accepting module for accepting a print job request; and

a computing module for computing a use fee for the print service,

wherein, if the print job request is accepted via a server apparatus by said accepting module, said computing module computes the use fee for the print service on the basis of a first billing rate, and

if the print job request is accepted directly by a printer by said accepting module, said computing module computes the use fee for the print service on the basis of a second billing rate, wherein the first billing rate differs from the second billing rate.

76. (New) A program according to claim 75, wherein image data is transferred via a network from the server apparatus to the printer.

77. (New) A program according to claim 75, wherein the server apparatus transmits registered image data to the printer in response to the print job request from a client.

78. (New) A program according to claim 75, wherein the server apparatus has a function of managing the print service and the server apparatus includes a computing unit for executing said computing module.

79. (New) A program according to claim 75, wherein said computing module computes the use fee in accordance with a print result notice from the printer.

80. (New) A program according to claim 75, wherein the server apparatus is connected to a client apparatus and the printer via a network.

81. (New) A print system which provides a print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request that includes designation of the electronic document to be printed, said print system comprising:

a managing unit, adapted to manage user identification information for identifying a user requesting the print service and use information on use results of the print service used by the user, wherein the user information and the use information are related to each other;

a determination unit, adapted to dynamically determine a discount rate of a billing rate for the print service on the basis of the use information managed by said managing means on use results of the print service used by the user; and

a computing unit, adapted to compute a settlement amount for the print service in accordance with the discount rate determined by said determination unit.

82. (New) A print system according to claim 81, further comprising:

a discount information managing unit, adapted to manage discount information on the discount rate of the billing rate for the print service to be applied to the user; and

a notifying unit, adapted to notify the user that the discount information on the discount rate of the billing rate for the print service was updated,

wherein said discount information managing unit updates the discount information in accordance with the use information on the use results for the print service used by the user, and



said notifying unit notifies the user that the discount information was updated.

83. (New) A print system according to claim 81, wherein said managing unit includes a management table storing the user identification information for identifying the user and the use information on the use results for the print service used by the user, with both the user identification information and the use information being related to each other, and updates the management table for the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user.

84. (New) A print system according to claim 83, further comprising a notifying unit, adapted to notify the user that the management table was updated, wherein said managing unit updates the management table for the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user, and said notifying unit notifies the user that the management table was updated.

85. (New) A print system according to claim 81, further comprising a condition determining unit, adapted to determine a charge condition applied to the user, in accordance with the use information on the use results for the print service used by the user.

86. (New) A print system according to claim 81, further comprising:

a condition managing unit, adapted to manage user identification information for identifying the user and charge condition information on a charge condition applied to the user, wherein both the user identification information and the charge condition information are related to each other; and

a notifying unit, adapted to notify the user that the charge condition applied to the user was updated,

wherein said condition managing unit updates the charge condition information applied to the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user, and

said notifying unit notifies the user that the charge condition applied to the user was updated.

87. (New) A control method for a print system which provides a print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request that includes designation of the electronic document to be printed, said method comprising:

a managing step of managing user identification information for identifying a user requesting the print service and use information on use results of the print service used by the user, wherein the user information and the use information are related to each other;

a determination step of dynamically determining a discount rate of a billing rate for the print service on the basis of the use information managed in the management step on the use results of the print service used by the user; and

a computing step of computing a settlement amount for the print service in accordance with the discount rate determined in said determination step.

88. (New) A control method according to claim 87, further comprising:  
a discount information managing step of managing discount information on the discount rate of the billing rate for the print service to be applied to the user; and  
a notifying step of notifying the user that the discount information on the discount rate of the billing rate for the print service was updated,  
wherein said discount information managing step updates the discount information in accordance with the use information on the use results for the print service used by the user, and  
said notifying step is adapted to notify the user that the discount information was updated.

89. (New) A control method according to claim 87, wherein, in said managing step, a management table is used to store the user identification information for identifying the user and the use information on the use results for the print service used by the user, with both the user identification information and the use information being related to each other, and said managing step is adapted to update the management table for the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user.

90. (New) A control method according to claim 89, further comprising a notifying step of notifying the user that the management table was updated,  
wherein said managing step is adapted to update the management table for the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user, and

said notifying step is adapted to notify the user that the management table was updated.

91. (New) A control method according to claim 87, further comprising a condition determining step of determining a charge condition applied to the user, in accordance with the use information on the use results for the print service used by the user.

92. (New) A control method according to claim 87, further comprising:  
a condition managing step of managing the user identification information for identifying the user and charge condition information on a charge condition applied to the user, wherein both the user identification information and the charge condition information are related to each other; and

a notifying step of notifying the user that the charge condition applied to the user was updated,

wherein said condition managing step is adapted to update the charge condition information applied to the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user, and

said notifying step is adapted to notify the user that the charge condition applied to the user was updated.

93. (New) A server apparatus which provides print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request that includes designation of the electronic document to be printed, said apparatus comprising:

a managing unit, adapted to manage user identification information for identifying a user requesting the print service and use information on use results of the print service used by the user, wherein the user identification information and the use information are related to each other;

a determination unit, adapted to dynamically determine a discount rate of a billing rate for the print service on the basis of the use information managed by the managing unit on use results for the print service used by the user; and

a computing unit, adapted to compute a settlement amount for the print service in accordance with the discount rate determined by said determination unit.

94. (New) A server apparatus according to claim 93, further comprising:

a discount information managing unit, adapted to manage discount information on the discount rate of the billing rate for the print service to be applied to the user; and

a notifying unit, adapted to notify the user that the discount information on the discount rate of the billing rate for the print service was updated,

wherein said discount information managing unit updates the discount information in accordance with the use information on the use results for the print service used by the user, and

said notifying unit notifies the user that the discount information was updated.

95. (New) A server apparatus according to claim 93, wherein said managing unit includes a management table storing the user identification information for identifying the user and the use information on the use results for the print service used by the user, with both of the user identification information and the use information being related to each other, and updates the management table for the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user.

96. (New) A server apparatus according to claim 95, further comprising a notifying unit, adapted to notify the user that the management table was updated,

wherein said managing unit updates the management table for the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user, and

said notifying unit notifies the user that the management table was updated.

97. (New) A server apparatus according to claim 93 , further comprising a condition determining unit, adapted to determine a charge condition applied to the user, in accordance with the use information on the use results for the print service used by the user.

98. (New) A server apparatus according to claim 93, further comprising:

a condition managing unit, adapted to manage user identification information for identifying the user and charge condition information on a charge condition applied to the user, wherein both the user identification information and the charge condition information are related to each other; and

a notifying unit, adapted to notify the user that the charge condition applied to the user was updated,

wherein said condition managing unit updates the charge condition information applied to the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user, and

said notifying unit notifies the user that the charge condition applied to the user was updated.

99. (New) A storage medium on which is stores a program to execute a control method for a print system which provides a print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request that includes designation of the electronic document to be printed, said program comprising:

a managing step of managing user identification information for identifying a user requesting the print service and use information on use results of the print service used by the user, wherein the user identification information and the use information are related to each other;

a determination step of dynamically determining a discount rate of a billing rate for the print service on the basis of the use information on use results of the print service used by the user managed in said managing step; and

a computing step of computing a settlement amount for the print service in accordance with the discount rate determined in said determination step.

100. (New) A storage medium according to claim 99, wherein said program further comprises:

a discount information managing step of managing discount information on the discount rate of the billing rate for the print service to be applied to the user; and

a notifying step of notifying the user that the discount information on the discount rate of the billing rate for the print service was updated,

wherein said discount information managing step is adapted to update the discount information in accordance with the use information on the use results of the print service used by the user, and

said notifying step is adapted to notify the user that the discount information was updated.

101. (New) A storage medium according to claim 99, wherein, in said managing step, a management table is used to store the user identification information for identifying the user and the use information on the use results of the print service used by the user, with both the user identification information and the use information being related to each other, and said managing step is adapted to update the management table for the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user.



102. (New) A storage medium according to claim 101, wherein said program further comprises a notifying step of notifying the user that the management table was updated,

wherein said managing step is adapted to update the management table for the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user, and

said notifying step is adapted to notify the user that the management table was updated.

103. (New) A storage medium according to claim 99, wherein said program further comprises a condition determining step of determining a charge condition applied to the user, in accordance with the use information on the use results of the print service used by the user.

104. (New) A storage medium according to claim 99, wherein said program further comprises:

a condition managing step of managing user identification information for identifying the user and charge condition information on a charge condition applied to the user, wherein both the user identification information and the charge condition information are related to each other; and

a notifying step of notifying the user that the charge condition applied to the user was updated,

wherein said condition managing step is adapted to update the charge condition information applied to the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user, and

said notifying step is adapted to notify the user that the charge condition applied to the user was updated.

105. (New) A program stored on a computer-readable storage medium, the program causing a computer to execute a control method for a print system which provides a print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request that includes designation of the electronic document to be printed, said program comprising:

a managing module for managing user identification information for identifying a user requesting the print service and use information on use results of the print service used by the user, wherein the user identification information and the use information are related to each other;

a determination module for dynamically determining a discount rate of a billing rate for the print service on the basis of the use information on use results of the print service used by the user managed by said managing module; and

a computing module for computing a settlement amount for the print service in accordance with the discount rate determined by said determination module.

106. (New) A program according to claim 105, further comprising:

a discount information managing module for managing discount information on the discount rate of the billing rate for the print service to be applied to the user; and

a notifying module for notifying the user that the discount information on the discount rate of the billing rate for the print service was updated,

wherein said discount information managing module is adapted to update the discount information in accordance with the use information on the use results of the print service used by the user, and

said notifying module is adapted to notify the user that the discount information was updated.

107. (New) A program according to claim 105, wherein, in the process by said managing module, a management table is used to store the user identification information for identifying the user and the use information on the use results for the print service used by the user, with both of the user identification information and the use information being related to each other, and said managing module is adapted to update the management table for the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user.

108. (New) A program according to claim 107, further comprising a notifying module for notifying the user that the management table was updated,

wherein said managing module is adapted to update the management table for the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user, and

said notifying module is adapted to notify the user that the management table was updated.

109. (New) A program according to claim 105, further comprising a condition determining module for determining a charge condition applied to the user, in accordance with the use information on the use results of the print service used by the user.

110. (New) A program according to claim 105, further comprising:  
a condition managing module for managing user identification information for identifying the user and charge condition information on a charge condition applied to the user, wherein both the user identification information and the charge condition information are related to each other; and

a notifying module for notifying the user that the charge condition applied to the user was updated,

wherein said condition managing module is adapted to update the charge condition information applied to the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user, and

said notifying module is adapted to notify the user that the charge condition applied to the user was updated.